

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A valve including a valve housing providing a chamber accommodating at least part of a valve member, said chamber forming at least part of a first or high pressure side of said valve, a valve port leading from said chamber to a second or low-pressure side of said valve, a valve seat around the valve port, said valve member having a seating surface co-operating with the valve seat and the valve member being displaceable, along an axis passing through said port, respectively (a) in a first direction, to move said seating surface into said chamber and away from said valve seat and (b) in a second, opposite direction, to move said seating surface towards said valve seat, biasing means being provided biasing said valve member in said second direction towards its closed position, the valve housing having an extension extending, in said second direction, beyond said port and forming a transverse wall at an axial end of said extension at a distance from said port, said extension having an axial bore extending from said port and forming a central aperture in said transverse wall, which aperture forms a bearing for an axial extension of said valve member through which bearing said axial extension passes as a sliding fit, whereby the valve member is guided for said axial movement, said axial bore being bored out to a seat diameter of the valve port up to a distance just short of said transverse wall to provide a passage for gas from said port and at least one transverse outlet bore radiating from said axial bore to a respective opening in a side wall of said extension, on the periphery of the valve housing, so that gas outflow from said port is translated from the axial sense to the radial sense, the transverse wall serving to deflect any gas proceeding from said valve port in a direction parallel with said valve axis, wherein the periphery of said extension of the valve housing is undercut in the region behind the transverse wall, in such a way that said undercut region becomes gradually increasingly spaced from said axis with distance, measured parallel with said axis, away from said transverse wall, so that over said undercut region, the peripheral surface of the valve body is inclined with respect to said axis, and wherein one or each said opening or openings at the side of the valve body opens onto said inclined peripheral surface

which serves to direct any gas exiting the opening or openings in a downward direction towards an outlet port of the valve.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A valve including a valve housing providing a chamber accommodating at least part of a valve member, said chamber forming at least part of a first or high pressure side of said valve, a valve port leading from said chamber to a second or low-pressure side of said valve, a valve seat around the valve port, said valve member having a seating surface co-operating with the valve seat and the valve member being displaceable, along an axis passing through said port, respectively (a) in a first direction, to move said seating surface into said chamber and away from said valve seat and (b) in a second, opposite direction, to move said seating surface towards said valve seat, the valve member having a bore extending axially from the high pressure end thereof and forming a cylinder sealingly slidable, in said first and second directions, on a piston fixed within said valve housing, to define therewith a further chamber, biasing means being provided biasing said valve member in said second direction towards its closed position, said further chamber in either case communicating with the low pressure side of the valve, and wherein said piston has a base part or a supporting insert providing an outer periphery received in an internal recess or groove provided around a bore which extends axially into the valve housing from a high pressure end thereof and which bore at least partially defines said chamber accommodating the valve member, said internal recess or groove being disposed at a location remote from said valve seat, the valve housing having one or more longitudinal slits therethrough extending from the high pressure end of the valve housing, (*i.e. the end remote from said valve seat*) adjacent said internal groove or recess and extending through the location of said internal groove or recess, the material of the valve housing being sufficiently resilient to allow the wall of the valve housing to be flexed outwardly sufficiently to allow said base part or insert to pass within said bore in the valve housing from said high pressure end thereof to the axial position of said internal groove or recess and to allow the wall

of the valve housing thereafter to spring back around said base part or insert to locate said base part or insert in said internal groove or recess.

5. (Currently Amended) A valve including a valve housing providing a chamber accommodating at least part of a valve member, said chamber forming at least part of a first or high pressure side of said valve, a valve port leading from said chamber to a second or low-pressure side of said valve, a valve seat around the valve port, said valve member having a seating surface co-operating with the valve seat and the valve member being displaceable, along an axis passing through said port, respectively (a) in a first direction, to move said seating surface into said chamber and away from said valve seat and (b) in a second, opposite direction, to move said seating surface towards said valve seat, the valve member having a bore extending axially from the high pressure end thereof and forming a cylinder sealingly slidable, in said first and second directions, on a piston fixed within said valve housing, to define therewith a further chamber, biasing means being provided biasing said valve member in said second direction towards its closed position, said further chamber in either case communicating with the low pressure side of the valve, and wherein said piston has a base part or supporting insert providing an outer periphery received in an internal recess or groove provided around a bore which extends axially into the valve housing from a high pressure end thereof and which bore at least partially defines said chamber accommodating the valve member, said internal recess or groove being disposed at a location remote from said valve seat, wherein the base part or supporting insert is designed for resilient inward flexing to allow it to be inserted in the bore in the valve housing from said high pressure end thereof to spring into said groove when the base part or insert is at the longitudinal position of said internal groove or recess, thereby to retain said piston in place, wherein the lower edge of the bore in the valve housing is internally chamfered and/or wherein the outer edge of said base part is externally chamfered, to facilitate insertion of the base part or insert into the bore in the valve housing from said lower end of the valve housing, wherein the lower edge is the high pressure edge and the lower end is the high pressure end.

6. (Previously Presented) A valve as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the lower edge of the bore in the valve housing is internally chamfered and/or wherein the outer edge of said base part is externally chamfered, to facilitate insertion of the base part or insert into the

bore in the valve housing from said lower end of the valve housing, wherein the lower edge is the high pressure edge and the lower end is the high pressure end.

7. (Withdrawn) A sealing arrangement comprising a body having a bore, a seal for sealing said bore with respect to a piston or the like member disposed centrally within the bore and providing a larger diameter portion engaging, or closer to, the wall of said bore and a smaller diameter portion on a higher pressure side of said larger diameter portion, said seal comprising a resilient material which is generally U-shaped in half-section along the axis of said bore, the seal providing a base part abutting a shoulder extending from the periphery of said larger diameter part to the periphery of said smaller diameter part, said base providing the base of the U-section, the seal including an inner sleeve, defining an inner limb of said U-section and extending around said smaller diameter part, and extending away from said base to a free edge, the seal further including an outer sleeve extending from said base part along said bore to a free edge of the outer sleeve, said outer sleeve defining the other limb of said U-section, and wherein said outer sleeve, in an unstressed state of said seal, (and thus in an un-installed state) diverges slightly from the axis of the seal, with increasing distance from said base.

8. (Withdrawn) A sealing arrangement according to Claim 7 wherein the inner sleeve, in an un-stressed state of the seal, converges slightly towards said central axis of the seal with increasing distance from said annular base.

9. (Withdrawn) A sealing arrangement according to Claim 7 wherein the outer sleeve tapers in radial thickness towards said free edge thereof.

10. (Withdrawn) A sealing arrangement according to claim 7 wherein the outer sleeve, in semi-axial section, is curved outwardly towards said free edge.

11. (Withdrawn) A sealing arrangement according to Claim 7 wherein the thickness of the base part - measured axially - is greater than twice the greatest radial thickness of the outer sleeve.

12. (Withdrawn) A sealing arrangement according to Claim 7 wherein the thickness of the base part - measured axially, is greater than twice the greatest thickness of the inner sleeve.

13. (Withdrawn) A sealing arrangement according to claim 7 wherein the seal is of PTFE.

14. (Withdrawn) A sealing arrangement according to claim 7 wherein the seal is of polyethylene.

15. (Withdrawn) A sealing arrangement according to Claim 14 wherein the seal is formed by injection moulding followed by gamma radiation.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Withdrawn) A sealing arrangement according to Claim 8 wherein the outer sleeve tapers in radial thickness towards said free edge thereof.

20. (Withdrawn) A sealing arrangement according to Claim 8 wherein the outer sleeve, in semi-axial section, is curved outwardly towards said free edge.

21. (Withdrawn) A sealing arrangement according to Claim 9 wherein the outer sleeve, in semi-axial section, is curved outwardly towards said free edge.

22. (Withdrawn) A sealing arrangement according to Claim 8 wherein the thickness of the base part - measured axially - is greater than twice the greatest radial thickness of the outer sleeve.

23. (Withdrawn) A sealing arrangement according to Claim 9 wherein the thickness of the base part - measured axially - is greater than twice the greatest radial thickness of the outer sleeve.

24. (Withdrawn) A sealing arrangement according to Claims 10 wherein the thickness of the base part - measured axially - is greater than twice the greatest radial thickness of the outer sleeve.

25. (Withdrawn) A sealing arrangement according to Claim 8 wherein the thickness of the base part - measured axially, is greater than twice the greatest thickness of the inner sleeve.

26. (Withdrawn) A sealing arrangement according to Claim 11 wherein the thickness of the base part - measured axially, is greater than twice the greatest thickness of the inner sleeve.

27. (Withdrawn) A sealing arrangement according to Claims 8 wherein the seal is of PTFE.

28. (Withdrawn) A sealing arrangement according to Claim 12 wherein the seal is of PTFE.

29. (Withdrawn) A sealing arrangement according to Claim 9 wherein the seal is of polyethylene.

30. (Withdrawn) A sealing arrangement according to Claim 12 wherein the seal is of polyethylene.

31. (Previously Presented) The valve of Claim 4, including: a sealing arrangement comprising said valve member having said bore, a seal for sealing said bore with

respect to said piston disposed centrally within the bore and providing a larger diameter portion engaging, or closer to, the wall of said bore and a smaller diameter portion on a higher pressure side of said larger diameter portion, said seal comprising a resilient material which is generally U-shaped in half-section along the axis of said bore, the seal providing a base part abutting a shoulder extending from the periphery of said larger diameter part to the periphery of said smaller diameter part, said base providing the base of the U-section, the seal including an inner sleeve, defining an inner limb of said U-section and extending around said smaller diameter part, and extending away from said base to a free edge, the seal further including an outer sleeve extending from said base part along said bore to a free edge of the outer sleeve, said outer sleeve defining the other limb of said U-section, and wherein said outer sleeve, in an unstressed state of said seal, wherein said unstressed state is an un-installed state diverges slightly from the axis of the seal, with increasing distance from said base.

32. (Currently Amended) The valve of Claim 5, including: a sealing arrangement comprising said valve member having said bore, a seal for sealing said bore with respect to said piston disposed centrally within the bore and providing a larger diameter portion engaging, or closer to, the wall of said bore and a smaller diameter portion on a higher pressure side of said larger diameter portion, said seal comprising a resilient material which is generally U-shaped in half-section along the axis of said bore, the seal providing a base part abutting a shoulder extending from the periphery of said larger diameter part to the periphery of said smaller diameter part, said base providing the base of the U-section, the seal including an inner sleeve, defining an inner limb of said U-section and extending around said smaller diameter part, and extending away from said base to a free edge, the seal further including an outer sleeve extending from said base part along said bore to a free edge of the outer sleeve, said outer sleeve defining the other limb of said U-section, and wherein said outer sleeve, in an unstressed state of said seal, wherein said unstressed state is an un-installed state diverges slightly from the axis of the seal, with increasing distance from said base, wherein said base part has a thickness greater than twice the greatest radial thickness of said outer sleeve and greater than twice the greatest thickness of said inner sleeve.

33. (Previously Presented) The valve of Claim 4, including: a sealing arrangement wherein the inner sleeve, in an un-stressed state of the seal, converges slightly towards said central axis of the seal with increasing distance from said annular base.

34. (Previously Presented) The valve of Claim 5, including: a sealing arrangement wherein the inner sleeve, in an un-stressed state of the seal, converges slightly towards said central axis of the seal with increasing distance from said annular base.